

CLASS SPECIFICATION
County of Fairfax, Virginia

CLASS: 5317 **TITLE:** SENIOR BUILDING INSPECTOR

GRADE: S-18

DEFINITION:

Under general supervision, performs a variety of difficult and specialized building and fire protection equipment and systems inspections involving the exercise of independent judgment and initiative; provides technical advisory services to the general public; and performs related work as required.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CLASS:

The class is distinguished from the Building Inspector class by the ability to independently conduct specialized inspections of construction, buildings and structures, and fire protection equipment and systems. Both classes require journey-level work experience in the building trade or previous fire prevention and protection experience.

ILLUSTRATIVE DUTIES:

Inspects job sites for compliance with all applicable codes and standards pertaining to the installation, testing and inspection of fire protection equipment and systems, and witnesses the required performance tests conducted by the installing contractor;

Inspects buildings and structures to ensure compliance with the Statewide Fire Prevention Code and Fairfax County Fire Prevention Code;

Investigates and troubleshoots problems related to fire protection equipment and systems as they occur in buildings;

Investigates structural damage or failure due to fire, weather or accident, and documents each incident with written reports, pictures, etc., as necessary;

Inspects new building construction to ensure that construction is in compliance with the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (VUSBC), other applicable codes, and sound engineering and construction practices, and insures that construction is completed in accordance with the approved plans;

Checks all new construction for compliance with energy conservation requirements and codes;

Approves or disapproves use of alternate designs or methods based on the review conducted by plan reviewers;

Enters the results of each inspection into a hand-held computer terminal or maintains complete records of inspections and test results of performance testing of fire protection equipment and systems;

When an investigation or inspection uncovers code violations or work that is not approved, identifies the sections of the regulations being violated, issues written code violation notices to developer, owner(s) or appropriate persons, and takes necessary action to ensure violations are corrected (e.g., testifies to facts in court, recommends “shut down” of the project, and/or issues summons or assists in securing arrest warrants);

Determines stress of materials used in construction and recommends changes in design when necessary;

Inspects developer's field operations for compliance with the Virginia Occupational Safety and Health Act (VOSHA), and resolves all discrepancies through cooperation with the developer (or, if the developer refuses to correct the deficiency, through notification of the violation to the Virginia Department of Labor and Industry for its action);

Examines and analyzes plans and specifications for compliance with code requirements and, when plans have been certified as having met all the requirements, issues permits;

Reviews requests for inspections, coordinates inspections with other County agencies (i.e., the Department of Environmental Management, Fire and Rescue Department, Health Department) as required, and schedules inspections;

Investigates citizen complaints against builders, evaluates their validity, reports findings of the investigation, and recommends corrective action when necessary;

Interprets applicable codes;

Attends meetings and conferences;

Prepares reports and composes correspondence.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES:

Knowledge of fire protection equipment and systems;

Knowledge of fire chemistry and behavior, fire prevention fundamentals, general fire safety, physical properties of flammable and combustible solids/liquids/gases, and fundamentals of fire suppression;

Knowledge of the theory and practice of building codes (national, state, and County);

Knowledge of the materials and practices used in building construction;

Knowledge of investigatory practices and techniques;

Ability to read and interpret plans, specifications, and engineering drawings;

Ability to analyze buildings (to determine stress of materials used in construction) and structures (to determine structural stability) in accordance with accepted engineering practice;

Ability to conduct inspections of buildings and facilities to ensure code compliance;

Ability to work with people and obtain their cooperation, even in difficult situations;

Ability to prepare clear and factual reports;

Ability to use sound judgment in making independent decisions.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS:

Any combination of education, experience, and training equivalent to the following:

High school graduation or a G.E.D. issued by a state department of education; PLUS

One year of experience as a building inspector, fire inspector, or inspector of fire protection equipment and systems.

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CERTIFICATES AND LICENSES REQUIRED:

Possession of a valid Motor Vehicle Driver's License is required for some positions in this class. Within one year of appointment, employees assigned to the Fire and Rescue Department must obtain certification as a Fire Inspector II in accordance with the Virginia Department of Fire Programs, and as a Technical Assistant to the Fire Official in accordance with the standards of the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development.

REVISED:

June 4, 1998

REVISED:

April 25, 1997